foreign exchange for the country. The tourism trade is highly responsive to Government policies and programmes.

Suspension of Vayudoot service to Hubli

1557. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Vayudoot which extended its air services to Hubli Airport for some time, has suspended the same for want of certain improvements at the Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action is being taken by Government to resume air services at Hubli ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Vayudoot services to Hubli were suspended in 1989 as the airport was not considered fit for safe operations mainly because of unsatisfactory condition of runway surface and presence of one high tension line on approach line of runway.

(c) Although necessary improvements have since been made at the Airport, commercial and operational constraints do not permit resumption of Vayudoot services to Hubli at present.

India's share in the World's tourist flow

1558. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that though tourism is among the world's fastest growing industries, India's share in the world tourist flow is abnormally poor at 0.4 per cent;

(b) whether it is also a fact that out of 40 crore world tourists, only 16 to 17 lakhs visit India;

(c) if so, what are the factors standing in the way of achieving a quantum jump in tourists flow into India, so that it can earn the much needed foreign exchange; and

(d) what are the reasons for not giving greater attention to the promotion of tourism ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The major factors inhibiting the growth of tourist traffic to India include lower levels of awareness about the Indian tourism product in overseas markets, insufficient international air seat capacity to India, inadequate infrastructural facilities etc.

(d) Greater attention to promote tourism to India is being given from Seventh Plan period onwards.

Boosting of Tourism for earning foreign exchange

1559. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1991-92 India earned foreign exchange worth Rs. 3,300 crore from foreign tourists, which is 8 per cent of our total export earnings ;

(b) what are the reasons that India is not able to keep pace with the growth in world tourism despite the economic factor;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government announced National Action Plan for Tourism in May, 1992 to boost tourist arrivals and foreign exchange earnings;

(d) if so, what is the progress made thereafter;

(e) whether any efforts have been made to explore fresh pastures of tourist spots; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The growth in tourist arrivals to the country is comparable with the growth in world tourist arrivals.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) The steps being taken by the Government, under the National Action Plan for tourism, to increase the inflow of foreign tourists to the country include improvement of infrastructural facilities, intensive development of specific circuits